

Criteria for Prioritization of Projects RSMo 21.795.2.(2)

Introduction

The information in this section is in accordance with the highlighted portion in the following section of the reporting statute. *"(2) A detailed explanation of the methods or criteria employed to select construction projects, including a listing of any new or reprioritized projects not mentioned in a previous report, and an explanation as to how the new or reprioritized projects meet the selection methods or criteria; ..."* Section 21.795.2(2), RSMo Supp. 1998 (emphasis added).

There will continue to be new construction of roads and bridges, but more emphasis will be on rehabilitation and reconstruction in years to come. The 5-Year Highway and Bridge Construction Schedule establishes the work to be done in the period 2001-2005. As each year of the plan is completed, a new year is added. Except for improvements specified in sections B and C, schedules for the years 2001-2004 are the same as in last year's report.

Projects for years 2001 – 2003, as well as the limited number of projects for year 2004, were determined on the basis of safety concerns, traffic needs and public input. Factors considered in project selection included safety, public comments, pavement condition, congestion, traffic volume and highway connections to other areas of Missouri and other states. Depending on the funding category under which projects are considered, different criteria were considered when prioritizing them.

The development of the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is leading to a shift in MoDOT's priorities and a resulting change in the prioritization process. In the past, more emphasis was placed on system expansion. Based on the LRTP, the focus is shifting to rehabilitation and reconstruction of existing assets. Projects for the remainder of 2004 and all of 2005 will be determined and prioritized using the processes identified in the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) once it has been approved.

The Long-Range Transportation Plan guides the course of Missouri's transportation system over a 20-year time span and will be continually updated. The success of the long-range plan depends on public input and public support. MoDOT will work with the public and respond to its transportation needs by tackling the highest priorities first. Obtaining public input, planning projects, completing improvements and following up with the public is a continuous process of quality improvement for MoDOT.

The Highway and Bridge Construction Schedule also includes three years' worth of urban projects that have been approved by the St. Louis and Kansas City metropolitan planning organizations. These organizations are responsible for approving highway projects undertaken in their areas.